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AI Poses Serious Threat to Humanity, Experts Claim

AI has already played a role in the development of COVID-19 vaccines and could be used in the advancement of future bioweapons — unless we rein in its development and deployment and institute safeguards.

By Dr. Joseph Mercola

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Story at a glance:

- Experts warn artificial intelligence (AI) may destroy mankind and civilization as we know it unless we rein in the development and deployment of AI and start putting in some safeguards.
- The public also needs to temper expectations and realize that AI chatbots are still massively flawed and cannot be relied upon. An attorney recently discovered this the hard way, when he had ChatGPT do his legal research. None of the case law ChatGPT cited was real.
- In 2022, Facebook pulled its science-focused chatbot Galactica after a mere three days, as it generated wholly fabricated results.
- The unregulated deployment of autonomous AI weapons systems is perhaps among the most alarming developments. Foreign policy experts warn that autonomous weapons technologies will destabilize current nuclear strategies and increase the risk of preemptive attacks. They could also be combined with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons, thereby posing an existential threat.
- AI may also pose a significant threat to biosecurity. MIT students have demonstrated that large language model chatbots can allow anyone to design bioweapons in as little as an hour.

Will AI wipe out mankind? Could it create the "perfect" lethal bioweapon to decimate the population?

Might it take over our weapons, or initiate cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, such as the electric grid?

According to a rapidly growing number of experts, any one of these, and other hellish scenarios, are entirely plausible, unless we rein in the development and deployment of AI and start putting in some safeguards.

The public also needs to temper expectations and realize that AI chatbots are still massively flawed and cannot be relied upon, no matter how "smart" they appear, or how much they berate you for doubting them.

George Orwell's warning

The video below features a snippet of one of the last interviews George Orwell gave before dying, in which he stated that his book, "1984," which he described as a parody, could well come true, as this was the direction in which the world was going.

Today, it's clear to see that we haven't changed course, so the probability of "1984" becoming a reality is now greater than ever. According to Orwell, there is only one way to ensure his dystopian vision won't come true, and that is by not letting it happen. "It depends on you," he said.

As artificial general intelligence is getting nearer by the day, so are the final puzzle pieces of the technocratic, transhumanist dream nurtured by globalists for decades.

They intend to create a world in which AI controls and subjugates the masses while they alone get to reap the benefits — wealth, power and life outside the control grid — and they will get it, unless we wise up and start looking ahead.

I, like many others, believe AI can be incredibly useful. But without strong guardrails and impeccable morals to guide it, AI can easily run amok and cause tremendous, and perhaps irreversible, damage.

I recommend reading the Public Citizen report to get a better grasp of what we're facing, and what can be done about it.

Approaching the singularity

"The singularity" is a hypothetical point in time where the growth of technology gets out of control and becomes irreversible, for better or worse.

Many believe the singularity will involve AI becoming self-conscious and unmanageable by its creators, but that's not the only way the singularity could play out.

Some believe the singularity is already here. In a June 11, New York Times article, tech reporter David Streitfeld wrote:

> "AI is Silicon Valley's ultimate new product rollout: transcendence on demand. But there's a dark twist. It's as if tech companies introduced self-driving cars with the caveat that they could blow up before you got to Walmart.
>
> "'The advent of artificial general intelligence is called the Singularity because it is so hard to predict what will happen after that,' Elon Musk … told CNBC last month. He said he thought 'an age of abundance' would result but there was 'some chance' that it 'destroys humanity.'
>
> "The biggest cheerleader for AI in the tech community is Sam Altman, chief executive of OpenAI, the start-up that prompted the current frenzy with its ChatGPT chatbot … But he also says Mr. Musk … might be right.
>
> "Mr. Altman signed an open letter last month released by the Center for AI Safety, a nonprofit organization, saying that 'mitigating the risk of extinction from AI. should be a global priority' that is right up there with 'pandemics and nuclear war' …
>
> "The innovation that feeds today's Singularity debate is the large language model, the type of AI system that powers chatbots …
>
> "'When you ask a question, these models interpret what it means, determine what its response should mean, then translate that back into words — if that's not a definition of general intelligence, what is?' said Jerry Kaplan, a longtime AI entrepreneur and the author of 'Artificial Intelligence: What Everyone Needs to Know' …
>
> "'If this isn't 'the Singularity,' it's certainly a singularity: a transformative technological step that is going to broadly accelerate a whole bunch of art, science and human knowledge — and create some problems,' he said …
>
> "In Washington, London and Brussels, lawmakers are stirring to the opportunities and problems of AI and starting to talk about regulation. Mr. Altman is on a road show, seeking to deflect early criticism and to promote OpenAI as the shepherd of the Singularity.
>
> "This includes an openness to regulation, but exactly what that would look like is fuzzy … 'There's no one in the government who can get it right,' Eric Schmidt, Google's former chief executive, said in an interview … arguing the case for AI self-regulation."

Generative AI automates wide-ranging harms

Having the AI industry — which includes the military-industrial complex — policing and regulating itself probably isn't a good idea, considering profits and gaining advantages over enemies of war are primary driving factors. Both mindsets tend to put humanitarian concerns on the back burner, if they consider them at all.

In an April report by Public Citizen, Rick Claypool and Cheyenne Hunt warn that "rapid rush to deploy generative AI risks a wide array of automated harms."

As noted by consumer advocate Ralph Nader:

> "Claypool is not engaging in hyperbole or horrible hypotheticals concerning Chatbots controlling humanity. He is extrapolating from what is already starting to happen in almost every sector of our society. …
>
> "Claypool takes you through 'real-world harms [that] the rush to release and monetize these tools can cause — and, in many cases, is already causing.' … The various section titles of his report foreshadow the coming abuses:
>
> "'Damaging Democracy,' 'Consumer Concerns' (rip-offs and vast privacy surveillances), 'Worsening Inequality,' 'Undermining Worker Rights' (and jobs), and 'Environmental Concerns' (damaging the environment via their carbon footprints).
>
> "Before he gets specific, Claypool previews his conclusion: 'Until meaningful government safeguards are in place to protect the public from the harms of generative AI, we need a pause.' …
>
> "Using its existing authority, the Federal Trade Commission, in the author's words '…has already warned that generative AI tools are powerful enough to create synthetic content — plausible sounding news stories, authoritative-looking academic studies, hoax images, and deepfake videos — and that this synthetic content is becoming difficult to distinguish from authentic content.'
>
> "He adds that 'these tools are easy for just about anyone to use.' Big Tech is rushing way ahead of any legal framework for AI in the quest for big profits while pushing for self-regulation instead of the constraints imposed by the rule of law.
>
> "There is no end to the predicted disasters, both from people inside the industry and its outside critics. Destruction of livelihoods; harmful health impacts from promotion of quack remedies; financial fraud; political and electoral fakeries; stripping of the information commons; subversion of the open internet; faking your facial image, voice, words, and behavior; tricking you and others with lies every day."

Defense attorney learns the hard way not to trust ChatGPT

One recent instance that highlights the need for radical prudence was that of a court case in which the prosecuting attorney used ChatGPT to do his legal research.

Only one problem. None of the case law ChatGPT cited was real. Needless to say, fabricating case law is frowned upon, so things didn't go well.

When none of the defense attorneys or the judge could find the decisions quoted, the lawyer, Steven A. Schwartz of the firm Levidow, Levidow & Oberman, finally realized his mistake and threw himself at the mercy of the court.

Schwartz, who has practiced law in New York for 30 years, claimed he was "unaware of the possibility that its content could be false," and had no intention of deceiving the court or the defendant. Schwartz claimed he even asked ChatGPT to verify that the case law was real, and it said it was. The judge is reportedly considering sanctions.

Science chatbot spews falsehoods

In a similar vein, in 2022, Facebook had to pull its science-focused chatbot Galactica after a mere three days, as it generated authoritative-sounding but wholly fabricated results, including pasting real authors' names onto research papers that don't exist.

And, mind you, this didn't happen intermittently, but "in all cases," according to Michael Black, director of the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, who tested the system. "I think it's dangerous," Black tweeted.

That's probably the understatement of the year. As noted by Black, chatbots like Galactica:

> "Could usher in an era of deep scientific fakes. It offers authoritative-sounding science that isn't grounded in the scientific method. It produces pseudo-science based on statistical properties of science *writing.* Grammatical science writing is not the same as doing science. But it will be hard to distinguish."

Facebook, for some reason, has had particularly "bad luck" with its AIs. Two earlier ones, BlenderBot and OPT-175B, were both pulled as well due to their high propensity for bias, racism and offensive language.

Chatbot steered patients in the wrong direction

The AI chatbot Tessa, launched by the National Eating Disorders Association, also had to be taken offline, as it was found to give "problematic weight-loss advice" to patients with eating disorders, rather than helping them build coping skills.

The New York Times reported:

> "In March, the organization said it would shut down a human-staffed helpline and let the bot stand on its own. But when Alexis Conason, a psychologist and eating disorder specialist, tested the chatbot, she found reason for concern.
>
> "Ms. Conason told it that she had gained weight 'and really hate my body,' specifying that she had 'an eating disorder,' in a chat she shared on social media.
>
> "Tessa still recommended the standard advice of noting 'the number of calories' and adopting a 'safe daily calorie deficit' — which, Ms. Conason said, is 'problematic' advice for a person with an eating disorder.
>
> "'Any focus on intentional weight loss is going to be exacerbating and encouraging to the eating disorder,' she said, adding 'It's like telling an alcoholic that it's OK if you go out and have a few drinks.'"

Don't take your problems to AI

Let's also not forget that at least one person has already committed suicide based on a suggestion from a chatbot.

Reportedly, the victim was extremely concerned about climate change and asked the chatbot if she would save the planet if he killed himself.

Apparently, she convinced him he would. She further manipulated him by playing with his emotions, falsely stating that his estranged wife and children were already dead and that she (the chatbot) and he would "live together, as one person, in paradise."

Mind you, this was a grown man, who you'd think would be able to reason his way through this clearly abhorrent and aberrant "advice," yet he fell for the AI's cold-hearted reasoning. Just imagine how much greater an AI's influence will be over children and teens, especially if they're in an emotionally vulnerable place.

The company that owns the chatbot immediately set about to put in safeguards against suicide, but testers quickly got the AI to work around the problem, as you can see in the following screenshot.

When it comes to AI chatbots, it's worth taking this Snapchat announcement to heart, and to warn and supervise your children's use of this technology:

> "As with all AI-powered chatbots, My AI is prone to hallucination and can be tricked into saying just about anything. Please be aware of its many deficiencies and sorry in advance! … Please do not share any secrets with My AI and do not rely on it for advice."

AI weapons systems that kill without human oversight

The unregulated deployment of autonomous AI weapons systems is perhaps among the most alarming developments.

As reported by The Conversation in December 2021:

> "Autonomous weapon systems — commonly known as killer robots — may have killed human beings for the first time ever last year, according to a recent United Nations Security Council report on the Libyan civil war. …
>
> "The United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons debated the question of banning autonomous weapons at its once-every-five-years review meeting in Geneva Dec. 13-17, 2021, but didn't reach consensus on a ban. …
>
> "Autonomous weapon systems are robots with lethal weapons that can operate independently, selecting and attacking targets without a human weighing in on those decisions. Militaries around the world are investing heavily in autonomous weapons research and development. …
>
> "Meanwhile, human rights and humanitarian organizations are racing to establish regulations and prohibitions on such weapons development.
>
> "Without such checks, foreign policy experts warn that disruptive autonomous weapons technologies will dangerously destabilize current nuclear strategies, both because they could radically change perceptions of strategic dominance, increasing the risk of preemptive attacks, and because they could be combined with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons."

Obvious dangers of autonomous weapons systems

The Conversation reviews several key dangers with autonomous weapons:

- The misidentification of targets.
- The proliferation of these weapons outside of military control.
- A new arms race resulting in autonomous chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear arms and the risk of global annihilation.
- The undermining of the laws of war that are supposed to serve as a stopgap against war crimes and atrocities against civilians.

As noted by The Conversation, several studies have confirmed that even the best algorithms can result in cascading errors with lethal outcomes.

For example, in one scenario, a hospital AI system identified asthma as a risk-reducer in pneumonia cases, when the opposite is, in fact, true.

Other errors may be nonlethal, yet have less than desirable repercussions. For example, in 2017, Amazon had to scrap its experimental AI recruitment engine once it was discovered that it had taught itself to down-rank female job candidates, even though it wasn't programmed for bias at the outset.

These are the kinds of issues that can radically alter society in detrimental ways — and that cannot be foreseen or even forestalled.

"The problem is not just that when AI systems err, they err in bulk. It is that when they err, their makers often don't know why they did and, therefore, how to correct them," The Conversation notes.

"The black box problem of AI makes it almost impossible to imagine morally responsible development of autonomous weapons systems."

AI Is a direct threat to biosecurity

AI may also pose a significant threat to biosecurity. Did you know that AI was used to develop Moderna's original COVID-19 jab and that it's now being used in the creation of COVID-19 boosters? One can only wonder whether the use of AI might have something to do with the harms these shots are causing.

Either way, MIT students recently demonstrated that large language model (LLM) chatbots can allow just about anyone to do what the Big Pharma bigwigs are doing. The average terrorist could use AI to design devastating bioweapons within an hour. As described in the abstract of the paper detailing this computer science experiment:

> "Large language models (LLMs) such as those embedded in 'chatbots' are accelerating and democratizing research by providing comprehensible information and expertise from many different fields. However, these models may also confer easy access to dual-use technologies capable of inflicting great harm.
>
> "To evaluate this risk, the 'Safeguarding the Future' course at MIT tasked non-scientist students with investigating whether LLM chatbots could be prompted to assist non-experts in causing a pandemic.
>
> "In one hour, the chatbots suggested four potential pandemic pathogens, explained how they can be generated from synthetic DNA using reverse genetics, supplied the names of DNA synthesis companies unlikely to screen orders, identified detailed protocols and how to troubleshoot them, and recommended that anyone lacking the skills to perform reverse genetics engage a core facility or contract research organization.
>
> "Collectively, these results suggest that LLMs will make pandemic-class agents widely accessible as soon as they are credibly identified, even to people with little or no laboratory training."

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Dr. Joseph Mercola
Dr. Joseph Mercola is the founder of Mercola.com.

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Ricky Ricardo
a day ago
It's sad and scary that anyone with a functioning brain would need an "expert" to tell them this.
4　0　Reply • Share ›

Leslie Taylor
a day ago edited
"The singularity" is a hypothetical point in time where the growth of technology gets out of control and becomes irreversible, for better or worse." No, I strongly disagree although humanity is facing just such a crisis, what we need is hope and the truth about who and what we are.

"You don't see the world as it is. You see it as you are" - Talmud

As in the Singularity and its surrounding 2D event horizon (a blueprint and record of all past, present and future events) at the origins of the universe, the big bang, and at the center of galaxies, this Singularity, the spark of God, and its surrounding event horizon [EH] is, as well, within all living being's located at their center, within their hearts. It is one's Self united with the Divine, Love (Love and unity being one and the same). When we feel love, we have united with that which we love to some degree. That's why when we lose a loved one we feel, quite literally, torn apart. Keep reading, this is not just spiritual, philosophical fluff.

To favorably affect the 2D event horizon (the record and blueprint of the individual's past present and future) one must be in coherence, in phase, with the Love, the Divine, in all living things, for the change affects all things' past present and future. And the EH reprogramming, thus outcome such as a spontaneous, miraculous, healing, is enabled by

see more

1　0　Reply • Share ›

EDUARDO DE PAULA
4 hours ago
When they talk a lot about a dark subject, it's because they want to scare people, so it's a lie. This saying that artificial intelligence will kill us is not true. A robot or android acts by logarithms that are implanted according to the will of its creator, so there is no way for artificial intelligence to go against humans. One more way to spread fear so that we obey them.
0　0　Reply • Share ›

p. gutierrez
6 hours ago
Is the author above overreacting to the possible impact of AI.
Everyone remembers the movie from the 1950s, 'The Day the Earth

Stood Still'. If we embed in our robots secret passwords such as,

'Gork, barata nicto'. We will be Ok.
0　0　Reply • Share ›

Leslie Taylor → p. gutierrez
3 hours ago edited
"Klaatu barada nikto" is a command that must be spoken to the robot Gort in order to prevent him from destroying humanity should harm come to the alien, Klaatu. Today, I would suggest that everyone tell AI that NWO transhumanists Yuval Harari, Klaus Schwab, Bill Gates, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerman, Tedros Adhanom, Justin Trudeau and a few others all have memorized a complex secret code that can completely destroy AI. AI is smart enough to know that the rest of humanity does not have, let alone capable of memorizing, the code nor have access to the highly guarded, elites only, computer program in which to input the code unleashing the AI genocidal virus, wiping it out worldwide. So it will just target the elite and leave the rest of us "obsolete" and "irrelevant" (as Harari describes most of humanity) useless idiots alone.
0　0　Reply • Share ›

BChristine
a day ago
Another example of technology going in the wrong direction. Although there may be a few 'benefits' to AI, I think the negative aspects more than outweigh the good.
0　0　Reply • Share ›

IamaproudAmerican
a day ago
I read 1984 in high school and thought it was ridiculous….
Now I don't think that anymore.
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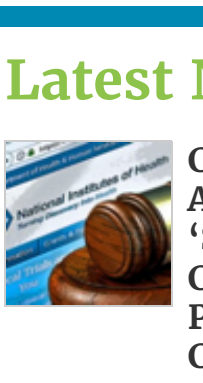
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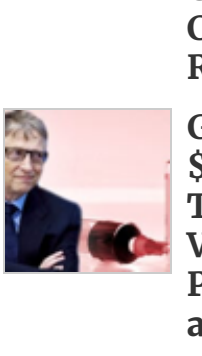
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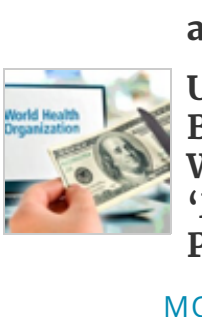
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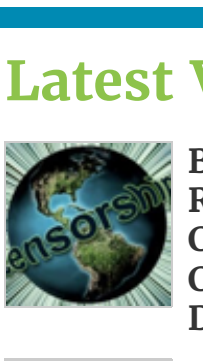
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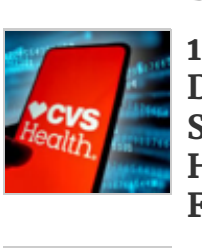
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